

ecoNews — Wire —

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

February 17, 2005

For immediate release

- 1. Iowa awarded national biodiesel grant**
- 2. Public comment sought for water quality plans at Cedar Lake**

IOWA AWARDED NATIONAL BIODIESEL GRANT

DES MOINES – The DNR, in partnership with the Iowa Soybean Promotion Board, has been awarded \$17,500 from National Clean Cities, Inc., to implement a new soy biodiesel offsite-loading terminal in the state.

The new loading facility will allow fuel distributors easier access for blending soy biodiesel, allowing them to deliver the fuel to its users – primarily farmers and semi-truck drivers – more efficiently. In August 2004 soy biodiesel manufacturer West Central Soy installed an offsite-loading terminal across the street from the Magellan pipeline terminal in Des Moines. The facility has distributed approximately 45,000 gallons of biodiesel to date.

Outside of Des Moines, fuel distributors travel to one of 22 other petroleum terminals in the state to load petroleum diesel fuel. They then must travel to one of three soy biodiesel manufacturers to add pure biodiesel (B100) to meet customer needs. Availability of soy biodiesel blends at or near the petroleum terminals increases efficiency for the retailer and will significantly increase availability to consumers.

“The growth of soy biodiesel is limited by the fuel delivery infrastructure,” said Sarah Van Gorp, marketing manager with the Iowa Soybean Association. “Iowa has only one terminal – the National Refinery Cooperative Association terminal in Council Bluffs – that is capable of mixing soy biodiesel onsite. This forces fuel distributors to obtain soy biodiesel directly from the manufacturers and blend it themselves.”

“Soy biodiesel is a cleaner burning alternative fuel produced from renewable, domestic resources – the soybeans produced right here in the U.S.,” said Gorp. “In addition to supporting the ag economy, soy biodiesel provides protection to vital engine parts to

extend engine life. Soy biodiesel works in any diesel engine, with few or no modifications.”

About 50 percent of Iowa farmers use soy biodiesel, and more than 300 fuel distributors currently offer it. Soy biodiesel is also available at 50 retail stations at varying blends for use in on-road diesel engines. B2, for example, is 98 percent No.2 diesel and two percent soy biodiesel.

“If a B2 blend of soy biodiesel were used in all U.S. on-road diesel vehicles, we would use approximately 473 million bushels of soybeans, which is virtually Iowa’s entire crop,” said Gorp.

Grant funds will be issued through a request for proposal to solicit a contractor to install an offsite loading facility near a petroleum terminal. The DNR and soybean board will provide marketing assistance. The total project cost is estimated at \$127,500 and is expected to be completed by September.

This grant was awarded through the Iowa Clean Cities program. A group of nonprofit and private organizations, commodity groups and governmental agencies have formed the Iowa Clean Cities Coalition to advance the use of alternative fuels and vehicles in the state. Other components of the program include hybrid vehicles, fuel economy and idle reduction strategies. The coalition was organized in August 2004 and has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy for designation status as a Clean Cities program.

For more information on the Iowa Clean Cities program or the biodiesel grant, contact Tami Foster at (515) 281-6558 or tami.foster@dnr.state.ia.us.

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PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT FOR WATER QUALITY PLANS AT CEDAR LAKE

DES MOINES — Plans for improving water quality at Cedar Lake in Madison County will be discussed at a public meeting on Feb. 23.

The meeting will be held:

6 p.m.

Feb. 23, 2005

Winterset Public Library

123 N. 2nd Street, Winterset, Iowa

Cedar Lake has had violations of the water quality standards that protect it as a drinking water source. Levels of nitrate in the lake have exceeded the standard of 10 milligrams per liter. A draft TMDL — or Total Maximum Daily Load — has been developed for Cedar Lake. TMDLs are calculations used to determine how much of a pollutant a water

body can receive and still maintain its designated uses, such as supporting aquatic life, allowing body contact such as swimming or use as a drinking water supply.

TMDLs also include plans on how water quality can be improved through watershed conservation efforts. After receiving public comments, the TMDL will be forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for final approval.

The draft TMDL can be obtained and comments can be made using the following sources:

- Internet: www.iowadnr.com/water/tmdlwqa/tmdl/publicnotice.html
- E-mail: larry.bryant@dnr.state.ia.us
- Telephone: Larry Bryant, (515) 281-6759
- Mail: Larry Bryant, Iowa DNR, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319

For more information, contact Larry Bryant at (515) 281-6759.